[5th November 1935

Police

Need for the continuance of the Malabar Special Police Force.

* 443 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Malabar Special Police Force was created;

(*b*) what the circumstances were that warranted the creation of the same; and

(*c*) whether there is still necessity to continue the Malabar Special Police?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Malabar Special Police was first constituted in 1921 to supplement the operations of the Military in connexion with the Mappilla rebellion of 1920–21.

(*c*) Yes.

General

Declaration of Sri Rama Navami as a holiday for all Hindus.

* 444 *Q.*—Mr. G. Rameswara Rao: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to declare Sri Rama Navami as a general holiday for all Hindus; and

(*b*) whether the term 'Vaishnavites' in relation to this holiday has been defined anywhere, and if so, what it is?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) No, but the term is well understood and includes only those who worship Vishnu solely.

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao:—"Is the Hon. Member aware that Sri Rama Navami is observed as a day of fasting and prayer by all classes of the Hindu community whether they are Vaishnavites or not?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I cannot say, Sir."

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao:—"May I request the Hon. Member to make enquiries, if necessary, from his Indian colleagues and from other agencies?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I do not think it necessary, Sir."

Irrigation

Restrictions on the user of the water in the Kalingarayan Channel, Erode taluk.

* 445 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) for how many months water is allowed in the Kalingarayan channel in Erode taluk of Coimbatore district and what the period is during which water is allowed in the channel,

(*b*) whether the authorities can prevent the ryots from taking water for their fields during the period of flow, and, if so, on what authority;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the authorities have prevented the ryots from taking water even after the 1st June this year, and, if so, on what authority and circumstances;

5th November 1935]

(*d*) whether complaints have been received in this behalf and how they have been disposed of; and

(*e*) what the loss estimated in the betel, plantain, and other crops is on account of such stoppage in supply?

A.—(*a*) Water is allowed in the Kalingarayan channel for ten months from 15th June to 14th April.

(*b*) According to the rules now in force for the distribution of water in this channel, water can be distributed by turns under rule 3 (*a*) which is reproduced below, when the supply falls below requirements.

"When the full available discharge falls below requirements, water will be distributed by turns. These will be regulated by the *Subdivisional Officer's written orders* on each occasion which shall also be communicated to the Tahsildar, but should it be necessary for the section officer or sub-overseer to anticipate his orders by reason of urgency, their disposal shall be immediately committed to writing and shall be forwarded to the Tahsildar for information and to the Subdivisional Officer for approval."

(*c*) Last year water was allowed on 1st June 1934 as experimental measure in view of promises made to the ryots during the Irrigation Conference of 1932, instead of the usual date of 15th June 1934. There was not sufficient water to adopt the same course this year and water could be allowed only from the 15th of June, the usual date.

(*d*) No complaints have been received from the ryots.

(*e*) The reference to stoppage in supply is not understood.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are aware that such restrictions have put the ryots to great difficulty—restriction in the matter of supply of water?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"There is no such restriction, Sir."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"With regard to clause (*c*), may I ask, Sir, if the sudden stoppage of water to the fields in June last has caused any damage to the crops?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"I think the answer to (*c*) covers everything. Water was allowed as an experimental measure from the 1st June. There was no sufficient water to adopt that course this year. There was no stoppage and there was nothing that was done which had not been in force for many years."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I know, Sir, if water was not supplied on the 1st June last."

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"The fact is as stated in answer to clause (*c*)."